

## Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

	2019-21 Actual	2021-23 Legislatively Adopted	2021-23 Legislatively Approved *	2023-25 Current Service Level	2023-25 Governor's Budget
General Fund	--	998,080	1,726,971	639,082	2,510,468
Other Funds	8,406,183	13,946,992	14,471,216	14,339,088	14,596,836
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>8,406,183</b>	<b>14,945,072</b>	<b>16,198,187</b>	<b>14,978,170</b>	<b>17,107,304</b>
Positions	26	30	34	27	34
FTE	24.75	29.25	31.00	26.50	32.50

\* Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2022.

### Program Description

The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) licenses educators, maintains and enforces professional standards for educators, and approves educator preparation programs in Oregon. The Commission is composed of 17 members who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The agency's three statutory responsibilities are:

- Establishing rules and issuing licenses and registrations to teachers, administrators, school nurses, school counselors, and school psychologists;
- Maintaining and enforcing professional standards of competent and ethical performance and proper assignment of licensed educators through investigations and sanctions; and
- Establishing standards for college and university teacher education preparation programs and approving those programs that meet standards.

The agency operationalizes these primary responsibilities through four programs: Professional Practices, Licensure, Program Approval, and Agency Operations. Recent legislation has added requirements for TSPC to establish standards for nontraditional pathways to licensure.

There are more than 67,000 active licenses, registrations, and certificates issued by TSPC, with teachers representing roughly 87% of licensees. Approximately 32,000 teachers are working in Oregon's public schools; the remainder of licensed educators are working in Oregon private schools, are employed as educators in other states or countries, are working in higher education, or are licensed but not employed in the education field. TSPC is one of a handful of stand-alone teacher licensing entities among the states; other models for educator licensing bodies include being a unit within a state's education agency. Funding for the agency comes primarily from licensing fees, although the agency has requested General-Funded policy option packages to continue programs added during the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions (*see Governor's Budget section, below*). As is the case with other small fee-supported state agencies, revenue growth has lagged expenditure growth, and maintaining revenues to support current service level expenditures has been an issue for the agency. Licensure fees were last increased in 2019, with a \$5 License System fee added in 2021 to pay for an upgrade to the Educator Data System.

### CSL Summary

The 2023-25 current service level budget for TSPC totals \$14,978,170 total funds and supports 27 positions (26.50 FTE); it is 5.97% less than the 2021-23 legislatively approved budget. Several programs added through legislation in 2021-23 were phased out; the proposed continuation of those programs is discussed under Governor's Budget, below.

### Policy Issues

The Commission has recovered from a period of falling revenues that occurred during the last recession, when fewer teachers applied for or renewed their licenses. The Commission eliminated positions, left positions vacant, reduced other spending, and used its ending balance resources to address its revenue shortfall. These actions resulted in backlogs in investigations, processing of licenses, and responding to emails and phone calls. Backlogs continue today, in part exacerbated by the pandemic (during which time the agency discontinued its call center) and in part through increased numbers of complex investigations and requests for hearings. The agency notes that its Professional Practices division is both its largest cost sector and its only cost center that does not have a specified revenue source. And, though fee revenues have improved for the 2023-25 biennium, they are not projected to keep up with expenditure growth, and may lead to a required fee increase in order to maintain funding for agency services.

The Commission plans to replace its electronic licensing system during the 2023-25 biennium. The current licensing system went live in 2016 and has never been fully functional, despite several attempts by the vendor to meet business requirements. TSPC has submitted its business case to DAS' Enterprise Information Services and is awaiting Stage Gate 1 endorsement.

### Governor's Budget Summary

The Governor's budget for TSPC is \$17,107,304 total funds and 34 positions (32.50 FTE), 14.2% more than CSL. Five of the agency's requested policy option packages were partially funded in the Governor's budget, adding 7 positions (6.00 FTE), \$1,871,836 General Fund, and \$257,748 Other Funds. The Governor's Budget investments are as follows:

- POP 102 adds five positions (5.00 FTE) and \$889,211 General Fund to improve customer service during the TSPC licensing process.
- POP 105 replaces the agency's licensing system (\$982,175 General Fund and \$365,667 Other Funds) and adds two positions (1.00 FTE) - a limited-duration project manager to implement the new system, and an ongoing systems administrator position for ongoing support after the new system goes live in 2024. The positions and ongoing support are funded with the \$5 system fee assessed on each application for licensure through TSPC and with other agency fee revenue.

### Key Performance Measures

A copy of the TSPC Annual Performance Progress Report can be found on the LFO website: [KPM - View Report \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](#)